

EFFORT TO AVERT COAL STRIKE FAILS AS BINS RUN LOW

Even Appeal From President Wilson Did Not

Bring Peace.
JOHN LEWIS LEAVES HALL;
WALKOUT ORDER STANDS

Nation's Chief Pleads for Operation of Mines to Afford Fuel.

PLANS NOW ALL AWR

SHIRTS WORKING BECAUSE OF
SHORTAGE OF COAL.

[By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 24.—The last government effort to avert the

strike set for November 1 failed utterly tonight, and 500,000 miners quit work on the very eve of winter with the nation's bins running dangerously low.

Even an appeal from President Wilson, sick in bed at the White House, was not enough to bring peace to a conference that was torn and on the breaking point half a dozen times during the day. Charges and countercharges flew thick and fast as the groups of operators and miners filed

While the operators announced that they had accepted the President's offer to wipe the slate clean and negotiate a new wage agreement, the miners charged that the operators had bolted without the consent of Secretary

Surrounded by a score of miners, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, hurried out of the hall.

of the mill without stopping, but halted long enough to announce that the strike order stood and that the miners would walk out after a full day's work on the closing day of the present month. The final breaking up of the conference, Lewis said, meant that official notice of the failure would be

The President's appeal was made through Secretary Wilson after the latter had exhausted every possible effort and had pleaded until his throat ached. It pointed what a terrible

and urged the two sides to get together, negotiate their differences, resorting to arbitration only in the event that negotiations failed. The important point in the proposal, however, was that the mines be kept open and the miners stay at work.

Tears in Secretary's Eyes.
The miners and operators had left the conference room and Secretary Wilson, the tears springing to his eyes was gathering up his papers, when he announced that his efforts and the President's efforts had fallen down and that the miners would not return to work.

"The operators agreed to accept the proposal of the President in its entirety," Mr. Wilson said, "and to proceed with negotiations, and if the

"The miners interpreted the President's letter as two proposals. They were willing to accept the first, that is, to proceed to negotiate."

tors said that, having expressed willingness to accept the President's proposal in its entirety, they held themselves ready to proceed to negotiate and arbitrate whenever called upon by the Secretary of Labor or by the miners' scale committee, and with that they adjourned.

Conference Is Adjourned.

"The miners remained and expressed their regret that the negotiation could not go on, but declined to proceed with the negotiations until it had been determined whether the results of the

"The conference then adjourned without date."

That was all the secretary would say, except to explain briefly how the miners' position worked out.

"The President's proposal," he said,

"The first the miners accepted, and held over the other two for consideration later."

son was asked, "Down to the automobile," he replied, as he saw the last of his hard work fall down.

Letter From President.

There was little hope of settling the strike.

met late today, after two offers by the secretary had been rejected. In opening the meeting, Mr. Wilson said he had just come from the White House with a message from the President urging peace that the people might have a beautiful week.

Miners and operators, sitting in separate groups, listened closely while the secretary read the following letter from the President embodying his suggestions for settling the strike:

"I have been watching with deep and sincere interest your efforts to bring

about a just settlement of the differences between the operators and the coal miners in the bituminous coal fields of the country. It is to be hoped that the good judgment that has been exercised by both operators and miners in years gone by in the adjustment of their differences will be maintained.

Fuel Supply Is Necessary.
 "All organized society is dependent upon the maintenance of the fuel supply for the continuance of its existence. The government has appealed with

"With the parties to the controversy rests the responsibility of seeing that the fuel supply of the nation is maintained. At this time, when the work-